Memorandum of various NE States on Hike in Price of Petro Products

2413. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI KHAGEN DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum has been submitted to Government by Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura in connection with proposed hike in prices of petroleum products and LPG; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The specific demand is to exempt North East India from the price increases of petroleum products. Petroleum products like motor spirit and diesel in North East are already having an element of subsidy like flat rate of transportation charges instead of actual freight. Additionally, there is a freight subsidy for the consumers of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG in North East.

Memorandum of M.Ps on merger of BRPL with IOC

2414. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25 M.Ps representing North Eastern Region had given a memorandum on 7th December, 1999 for merging Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL) with IOC; and

(b) if so, action taken by Government, so far, on the issue of merger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A view on the demand pertaining to the merger of BRPL with Indian Oil Corporation will be taken in the overall interest of the Oil Industry.

Use of LPG as Fuel in Automobiles

2415. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to use LPG as fuel in automobiles;

(b) if so, what is mechanism and time frame;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that "Alcohol' is mixed with petrol and used as fuel for cars e.g. Gashol in Brazil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is considered to be an environment friendly fuel. The use thereof as automotive fuel can commence after the necessary amendment in the Motor Vehicles Act and other relevant fules are made.

(c) and (d) It is reported that Brazil has been using ethanol blended with gasoline at different proportions in automobiles for quite some time.

Performance of Public Sector Oil Companies

2416. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of performance of oil companies in the public sector during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of companies have not fared well in the recent past; and

(c) if so, the details thereof together with reasons separately for each company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The performance of oil companies in the public sector during the last three years has been as under:—

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Crude Oil Production (MMT)	31.55	31.34	29.68
Gas Production (MMSCM)	22745	24720	24554
Crude Throughput of refineries (MMT)	60.0	61.3	64.5
Profit After Tax (Rs/crore)	5694	7497	8710

(b) and (c) Crude Oil production in ONGC and refinery through put in HPCL and BRPL has been lower than the target owing to the following reasons.